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RAW MATERIALS AND SOVIET RAILROADS

A report of the German OKH - Genst d H - Abt Frd Heere Ost (Army High Command, Army General Staff, Foreign Armies East Section), dated 3 March 1944, on "Soviet Russian Railroad Transportation and How the Raw Material Situation Effects It" arrives at the following conclusion:

The Soviet transport situation is subject to the same extraordinary tensions as the remainder of the economic system. However, so far the Soviet Union has been able to counteract these tensions or to limit their effects to such an extent that they did not effect or hamper the Red Army decisively.

Contrary to all predictions and despite an increase in armament manufacture, the Soviet transportation system succeeded again in 1943 in fulfilling its assignments to such a degree that bottlenecks in the internal Soviet economy were not felt at the front.

In the future the Soviet railroads will have to receive a larger allotment of the available quantities of iron and steel if serious consequences are to be avoided. The question, from which allotments did the quantities which made possible the continuance of operations in 1943 come, is still unsolved.

A solution could be found (1) in a further increase of iron and steel production, (2) in a limitation of allotments for the armament industry, or (3) in a very large increase of imports of railroad material of any kind.

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